

2
Page 1, line 14, through line 22, please replace the current paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

Q2
--There is a tilt steering apparatus so adapted that the height of a steering wheel can be changed depending on the physical constitution of a driver, the driving position, or the like. An example is a telescopically adjustable tilt steering apparatus in which the position of a steering wheel is adjusted along the axis of a steering shaft.--

Page 2, line 14, through line 18, please replace the current paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

Q3
--The present invention has been made in view of the above-mentioned problems, and has as its object to provide a tilt steering apparatus capable of obtaining a suitable operating torque of a lock lever and having good operability.--

Page 6, line 16, through Page 7, line 2, please replace the current paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

Q4
--Fig. 1 is a longitudinal sectional view of a steering column in a tilt telescopic steering apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention, and Fig. 2 is a partially broken side view of a lock lever and a portion to which the lock lever is attached. Referring to Fig. 1, a tilt telescopic steering apparatus (hereinafter merely referred to as a steering apparatus) comprises a steering column 2 for supporting a steering shaft 1 having a steering wheel fixed to its upper end in the axial direction so as to be rotatable.--

Page 7, line 12, through line 25, please replace the current paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

as --A fixed bracket 8 is fixed to a vehicle, and is in the shape of a groove opening downward. Bracket 8 comprises a pair of side plates 9 and 10 opposite to each other and an upper plate 11 connecting intermediate portions at upper ends of the side plates 9 and 10 to each other. A vertically long hole 12 in the shape of a circular arc is formed in each of the side plates 9 and 10. Reference numerals 13 and 14 denote mounting stays formed by folding upper edges of parts of the side plates 9 and 10 outward. The fixed bracket 8 is fixed to the vehicle by a bolt passing through a screw insertion hole formed in each of the mounting stays 13 and 14, which is not illustrated.--

Page 8, line 20, through Page 10, line 25, please replace the current paragraphs with the following replacement paragraphs:

we --Referring to Fig. 2, the lock lever 16 has a longitudinal main unit 41. A connecting section 23 connected to a cam 22, described later, so as to be integrally rotatable is provided at one end of the main unit 41, and a grip 42 to be gripped by a driver is provided at the other end of the main unit 41. Reference numeral 43 is a stopper plate which is screwed to the vicinity of one end of the main unit 41 to abut against a nut 24. The stopper plate 43 prevents the nut 24 from turning. In Fig. 2, reference numeral 21 denotes a cam follower engaged with the cam 22, and reference numeral 25 denotes a shim.

Referring to Fig. 1 again, the supporting shaft 15 is guided in the vertically long hole 12 so that only vertical sliding is allowed with respect to the fixed bracket 8. On the

other hand, the vertically long hole 7 prevents the steering column 2 including the tilt bracket 4 from moving back and forth with respect to the supporting shaft 15.

The supporting shaft 15 is composed of a bolt having a head 17, a body 18 composed of a circular cylinder, and a screw portion 19. The body 18 penetrates the side plates 5 and 6 of the bracket 4 and the side plates 9 and 10 of the bracket 8. A plain washer 20 is interposed between the head 17 and an outer surface of the side plate 10 of the fixed bracket 8.

On the other hand, the screw portion 19 of the supporting shaft 15 and a part of the body 18 connecting therewith project outward from the side plate 9 of the fixed bracket 8, and an annular cam follower 21 is fitted on a part of the body 18. The cam follower 21 is brought into contact with an outer surface of the side plate 9 of the fixed bracket 8. Further, the cam follower 21 has a projection inserted through the vertically long hole 12 of the side plate 9. Consequently, the rotation of the supporting shaft 15 around a center axis C is bound by the side plate 9 of the fixed bracket 8.

An annular cam 22 which is brought into contact with the cam follower 21 is fitted on the screw portion 19 so as to be relatively rotatable. The connecting section 23 of the lock lever 16 is connected to the cam 22 so that the lock lever 16 and the cam 22 are integrally rotated. A nut 24 with a flange is screwed into the screw portion 19. The nut 24 positions the cam 22 along the axis of the supporting shaft 15 through the annular shim 25 and the connecting section 23 of the lock lever 16. The inner periphery of the annular connecting section 23 may be in a polygonal shape such as a hexagonal shape or a shape having a width across flat on its circumference.--

Page 11, line 12, through line 20, please replace the current paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

25
--As shown in Fig. 3A, a pair of a first positioning section 26 for positioning the cam follower 21 at the time of releasing locking, and a second positioning section 27 for positioning the cam follower 21 at the time of locking are provided so as to be opposite to each other with a center axis of the cam 22 (i.e., the center axis C of the supporting shaft 15) on a surface 22a, opposite to the cam follower 21, of the cam 22.--

Page 15, line 11, through Page 16, line 10, please replace the current paragraphs with the following replacement paragraphs:

28
--The third slope 39 is positioned at the rear of the fastening stroke of the lock lever. An angle of inclination A to a plane perpendicular to a center axis C1 of the cam 22 is set to approximately 1°, for example (which may be in the range of 0.5° to 1.5°), and a top (crest) 40 is formed between the second slope 38 and the third slope 39.

On the other hand, referring to Figs. 7A and 7B, a plurality of projections 46 forming a trapezoidal shape in cross section which are brought into sliding contact with the cam surface 31 of the cam 22 are equally spaced in the circumferential direction on a surface 45, opposite to the cam 22, of the cam follower 21. A cam follower surface 47 composed of a top surface of the projection 46 is inclined at an angle of inclination (B = A, which is 1°, for example) equal to that of the third slope 39 to a plane perpendicular to a center axis C2 of the cam follower 21. As shown in Fig. 7A, the cam follower surface 47 and the third slope 39 are inclined at an equal angle of inclination in opposite directions and are brought into surface contact with each other.--

Page 16, line 17, through Page 17, line 11, please replace the current paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

929
--Particularly referring to Figs. 8A and 8B, the third slope 39, serving as a slope adjusting section, which is slightly inclined inverse slope is provided on the cam surface 31 in correspondence with the rear of the stroke in the fastening direction of the lock lever 16 whose operating torque is liable to be increased. Consequently, the lever ratio of the lock lever at the rear of the fastening stroke (corresponding to the ratio of the amount of displacement of the cam follower 21 to the increment of the operating angle of the lock lever) can be increased. As a result, the operating torque can be reduced, thereby making it possible to significantly improve the operability of the lock lever 16. In Fig. 8B, an arrow Y indicates the direction of movement of the cam 22 relative to the cam follower 21 in a case where the lock lever 16 is operated in the locking direction.--

Page 20, line 5, through line 20, please replace the current paragraph with the following replacement paragraph:

929
--In an embodiment shown in Fig. 13, a recess 52 concaved by providing a step 51 may be provided at the rear of a fastening stroke of the portion having no slope 50. As shown in Fig. 13, the angle of inclination B of the cam follower surface 47 may be also reduced to zero ($B = 0$) to have no slope, and a projection 53 fitted in the recess 52 may be provided at the rear of the fastening stroke of the cam follower surface 47. Also in this case, when the lock lever 16 is operated in the releasing direction, the projection 53 moves beyond the step 51, so that contact surface pressure between the cam